

Enactment of disaster management law for natural calamities

516. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are enacting a disaster management law with a regulatory body to deal effectively with calamities such as Tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, famine, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and b) Yes Sir, The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been enacted on 23rd December, 2005. It *inter-alia* provides for the setting up of a National Disaster management Authority with the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management for ensuring timely and effective response to disasters. For the purpose of the Act, "disaster" means a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, and degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area. The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted with Prime Minister as the Chairperson and eight other Members nominated by the Chairperson. One of the Members has been designated as the Vice-Chairperson.

- (c) Does not arise.

Status of cloud seeding technology

517. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of cloud seeding technology in our country;
- (b) Whether this project has been launched by Andhra Pradesh Government jointly with Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Centre;